

Wimborne Minster Urban District

Medical Officer's
REPORT

1948



**To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Wimborne Minster**

Miss Richards and Gentlemen

I have the honour to submit to you
my Annual Report for the year, 1948

ERIC H. MARKBY

M.O.H.

1. Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer (part time) : Dr. Eric H. Markby.

Sanitary Inspector, combined with Office of Surveyor :

Mr. A. H. E. Gellender, A.R.S.I.

2. Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

						1948
Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	...	653
Registrar General's estimate of Population as at						
30th June	...	...	...	...	...	4390
Number of Inhabited Houses (from rate book)					...	1385
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£33089
Sum represented by one penny rate				...	...	£131 approx.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the area, and the extent of unemployment : The chief industries are Engineering and Building Trades.

The unemployment in the Urban Area was negligible.

Thirty-six houses were built.

There are 172 Council Houses.

Vital Statistics.

						1948	
						M	F
Live Briths (legitimate)	...	...	...	...	...	30	39
Live Births (illegitimate)	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
Still Births	...	...	...	...	...	Nil	
Birthrate per 1,000 population			...	...	...	17	
Still birthrate per 1,000 births			...	...	...	Nil	
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	24	30
Crude death rate	...	...	...	...	...	12.4	
Death for Puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Infants under 1 year of age			...	...	...	—	1
Death rate per 1,000 live births			...	...	...	13	
Legitimate Infant death rate			...	...	...	Nil	
Illegitimate Infant death rate			...	...	...	Nil	
Deaths from Cancer	...	...	...	...	...	5	5
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	...	—	—

2a. Birth Rates, Civilian Death rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1948.

Provisional figures based on quarterly returns.

	England and Wales	126 C.B.'s and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop 25,000-50,000 1931 census	London Adm. County
Births—	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population			
Live Births ...	17.9*	20.0	19.2	20.1
Still Births ...	0.42*	0.52	0.43	0.39
Deaths—				
All Causes ...	10.8*	11.6	10.7	11.6
Typhoid and Paratyphoid ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough ...	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.01
Diphtheria ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Tuberculosis ...	0.51	0.59	0.46	0.63
Influenza ...	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.02
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Pneumonia ...	0.41	0.38	0.36	0.54
Notifications (Corrected)				
Typhoid Fever ...	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00
Paratyphoid fever ...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Scarlet fever ...	1.73	1.90	1.82	1.37
Whooping Cough ...	3.42	3.51	3.31	3.13
Diphtheria ...	0.08	0.10	0.09	0.10
Erysipelas ...	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.22
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	9.34	9.75	8.84	9.17
Pneumonia ...	0.73	0.84	0.60	0.57
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	0.04	0.05	0.04	0.04
Acute Polioencephalitis ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births			
Deaths—				
All causes under 1 year of age ...	34†	39	32	31
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age ...	3.3	4.5	2.1	2.4
	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births			
Notifications (Corrected)				
Puerperal fever and pyrexia ...	6.89	8.90	4.71	7.34‡

Maternal Mortality—In England and Wales

	Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still Births)	Rates per million Women aged 15—44
140 Abortion with Sepsis ...	0.11	9
141 Abortion without Sepsis ...	0.05	4
147 Puerperal infections ...	0.13	
142—146 } Other maternal causes	0.73	
148—150 }		

* Rates per 1,000 total population. †per 1,000 related births

‡ In London Puerperal fever alone was 0.61.

3. General Provision of Health Services for Area.

(1) *The advent* of the National Health Service on July 5th, 1948 has altered many existing health arrangements. All matters to do with Health come under the new Act.

(a) Wimborne Hospital with 34 beds, and 2 cots being 5 private wards, 12 beds for men, 12 beds for women, 4 beds for children and 1 casualty bed.

(b) Allen House Hospital with 106 beds, being 72 sick beds and 34 for Part III patients.

(c) Cornelia Hospital, Poole, and the Royal Victoria West Hants Hospital, Boscombe afford full general and maternity facilities.

(2) *Ambulance Facilities.*

The Ambulance is now maintained by the County.

(3) *Infectious Diseases.*

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are taken to the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Alderney, Poole.

Patients conveyed by their Ambulance.

Smallpox incidence is provided for by the County Council at the Isolation Hospital for the Wareham and Purbeck Rural District.

Disinfection of houses, etc., is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector.

(4) *Clinics.*

Treatment Centres under the authority of Dorset County Council exercising its authority with National Health Service.

(5) *Health Centre.*

The County Medical Officer has inspected the town with regard to this—a site near Allendale has been provisionally selected but nothing further has been done in the matter.

4. Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) *Water* (a) No extensions of public water supplies were made during the year. The town is supplied by the Bournemouth Gas and Water Company. The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Bacteriological Examinations are made by the Bournemouth Gas and Water Company regularly. There are a few wells. Samples are taken regularly and infected wells condemned.

(b) There has been no improvement regarding Main Sewerage, the matter has not been dropped and it is still very much in the mind of the authorities. The sewerage scheme at Leigh Park is working well for the New Houses.

(2) *Rivers and Streams.* No action taken pending decision as to the provision of a sewerage scheme. The Avon and Stour Catchment Board have cleared or levelled the bed of the river and the banks.

(3) (i) *Closet Accommodation.* There are 1078 earth closets and about 365 water closets (estimated).

(ii) *Public Cleansing.* Refuse and Night Soil collection. The cleansing services were completely re-organised in March, 1948. A modern low-loading motor refuse collecting vehicle, and two trailer tanks were put into service in March, 1948.

Refuse is no longer dumped at Leigh, but is burnt in the incinerator at Poole.

The disposal of Night Soil is still deposited in pits at Leigh. The pits are kept thoroughly disinfected. The nuisance from this depositing is far less than in former years. It is hoped that the night soil will be deposited elsewhere when arrangements can be made.

(iii) Sanitary Inspection of the Area carried out regularly.

(iv) Dairies, cowsheds, meat and other food shops are being inspected regularly by the M.O.H.
Quantities of meat and other foodstuffs condemned.
Meat, home killed, 143 lbs. ; Meat, imported, 338 lbs. ;
Meat, canned, 86 lbs. ; Fish, 25 stones ; Other foodstuffs, 131 lbs. ; Tinned foodstuffs, 312 tins.

(v) Company Sites. There are none in the area.

(vi) Smoke abatement. No nuisance in the town.

(vii) Swimming Pools and Baths. There is none in the district. There is a small Paddling Pool for children but at the present time it is not in use.

The Water supply of the Schools in the Urban District is satisfactory, being from the mains of the Bournemouth Gas and Water Co. With regard to sanitation, the schools are in the same position as the rest of the Urban District, i.e., there is no Main Drainage. The schools are visited by the M.O.H. as soon as a case of Infectious Disease is notified, and the necessary steps are taken to endeavour to prevent spread of infection.

5. Notifiable Diseases —(other than Tuberculosis).

					1948	
					M	F
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3	5
Measles	...	...	...	...	5	5
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	5	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	4	—
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	—	1
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	—	1
					—	—
					17	13
					—	—

6. Protection against Smallpox and Diphtheria.

The total number protected to the end of 1947 have been as follows :—

Year		1 to 4 years	5 to 15 years	Notifications	Deaths
Up to	1940	33	3	7	—
	1941	36	43	3	—
	1942	143	244	1	—
	1943	79	71	—	—
	1944	14	7	—	—
	1945	10	34	—	—
	1946	35	1	—	—
	1947	47	4	—	—

Prior to 1943 the numbers were all inclusive. For 1943 and 1944 the figures refer to actual residents in the Urban District. The earlier figures, for instance, included Grammar School children, the majority of whom live outside the District. They also included temporary evacuee residents whose numbers gradually fell away during 1943 and 1944 to a negligible total.

Since July 5th, 1948, Returns are made by the County.

It is still very important for children to be immunised and vaccinated. Since the Act came into force compulsory vaccination ceased but it is strongly recommended that all parents should have their child vaccinated against smallpox.

The fact that Diphtheria is now becoming rapidly extinct is a proof of the value of immunisation.

7. Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality 1948.

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 and under 5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5 and under 15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15 and under 25	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and under 35	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35 and under 45	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
45 and under 55	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
55 and under 65	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	2	2	—	—	2	—	—

1948

8. Causes of Death.

						M	F
6	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	...	—	2
13	Cancer of buc. cav. and oesoph.	...	...	...	...	1	—
15	Cancer of breast	...	...	...	...	—	2
16	Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	4	3
18	Intracranial vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	—	3
19	Heart Diseases	...	...	...	...	9	8
20	Other disorders of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	3	4
22	Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	1	—
23	Other respiratory disorders	...	...	...	...	1	2
27	Other digestive disorders	...	...	...	...	—	1
28	Nephritis	...	...	...	...	—	2
32	Con. mal. birth of infant	...	...	...	...	—	1
33	Suicide	...	...	...	...	1	—
36	All other causes	...	...	...	...	4	2
						24	30